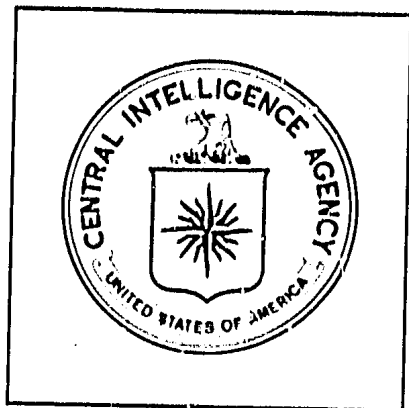


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# STAFF NOTES:

## Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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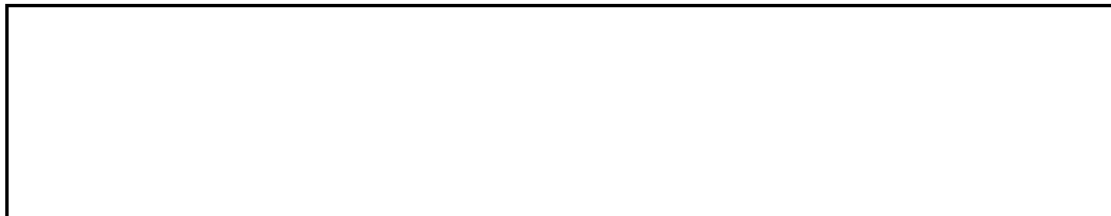
August 14, 1975

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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CONTENTS

August 14, 1975

Soviet Commentary on Portugal. . . . .	1
Yugoslav Army Cleans House . . . . .	3



25X1

Soviet Commentary on Portugal

Moscow is giving heavy play to events in Portugal with one eye to preparing a rationale for a defeat of the Portuguese Communists. The Soviets are also still building a case that Portugal should not be charged to their detente account, arguing that it is the West that is interfering in Portugal's internal affairs.

Moscow has been unusually candid in reporting to its domestic audience the travails of the Portuguese Communists, including the attacks on the party's facilities and people in north Portugal. Despite distortions in the reportage, there nonetheless emerges a picture of significant grass-roots anti-Communist feeling in Portugal.

The Soviets are also lining up a cast of villains. Vague accusations of Western meddling have become more specific. The Soviets have recently repeated allegations of CIA connections with opponents of the provisional government. There have been attacks on the "shameful campaign" waged by the Western press and criticism of the EC for postponing its decision on offering economic aid to Portugal. This line is intended to provide the domestic audience with a rationalization in case of a debacle for the Portuguese Communists. Not incidentally, it also could provide a cover for the failure of the "socialist community" to provide effective assistance to the Portuguese Communist Party.

But it has also been aimed at an international audience, and betrays Moscow's sensitivity to charges that it should be held responsible for any further leftward swing in Portugal. Moscow is saying that two can play that game, as it disingenuously charges elements in the West with violating the CSCE agreement in Portugal.

August 14, 1975

There has been little evidence in the Soviet commentary of major differences between Moscow and the Portuguese Communist Party. The Soviets have followed Cunhal's lead on the Portuguese socialists, and have pulled no punches in blaming the Socialists for the current political crisis. A recent issue of the *Literary Gazette* referred to "anti-Communist hysteria unleashed by Mario Soares," and other commentaries have asserted that local "fascists" responsible for the anti-Communist acts have become members of the Portuguese Socialist Party.

All this has not been especially pleasant for Moscow, which until a few months ago was pushing hard for a close relationship between the Communists and the Socialists. But Moscow has not completely given up on the idea of such an alliance. A *Pravda* report of a meeting between CPSU secretaries Kirilenko and Ponomarev and an Italian Communist Party delegation says that both sides advocated a renewal of a broad-based leftist coalition in Portugal.

Soviet media have provided few clues about what, if any, action Moscow plans to take with regard to Portugal. An *Izvestia* article of July 16 said, "In particular, as practice shows, Portugal can count on active economic and political cooperation with the socialist countries." This statement, somewhat ambiguous in itself, has not been amplified or reiterated. On July 24, however, *Pravda* did replay the call of the Belgian Communist Party chairman for European leftists to lend "maximum support" to the Portuguese revolution. In recent days the Soviets have rung in front groups such as the World Peace Council in support of the "people" of Portugal and against "imperialist intrigue."

25X1

August 14, 1975

Yugoslav Army Cleans House

The Yugoslav military recently completed the first phase of an apparently long-term effort to weed out politically unreliable officers

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The decision to clean house was made late last summer following Tito's public exposure of the Cominformist plot. The conspirators, a group of Stalinists supported by the Soviet embassy, planned to create an underground, anti-Titoist party. Their program was intended to appeal to those Yugoslavs who favor return to a rigidly centralized, authoritarian style of rule. No army officers were directly implicated in the plot, but some military men have been outspoken advocates of such tactics. The weeding-out process probably hit hardest at these potential allies of the Cominformists.

Concentration on political reliability in the armed forces evidently will not stop with the purge. The Defense Ministry is reintroducing an old system that calls for regular political evaluations of officers and their families. This procedure will raise the premium on politically correct behavior and will also provide the defense minister a new weapon for striking back at critics.

August 14, 1975

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt